

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MC-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07

EB-07 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 NEAE-00

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P 241020Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4836

CONFIDENTIAL ABU DHABI 2306

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : MASS, TC
SUBJECT : PROCUREMENT OF M16A1 RIFLES

REF: (A) STATE 205436, (B) ABU DHABI 2229

1. DCM MET AUGUST 23 WITH COL. MOHAMMAD SAEED AL-BADIE, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, UAE DEFENSE FORCE, TO REVIEW GROUND ON LATEST OPTION RE M16A1 PURCHASE BY UAEDF. BOL. BADIE STATED THAT SHAIKH KHALIFA HAD BRIEFED HIM ON CONVERSATION DURING AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL CALL (REF. B) BUT HE WAS APPRECIATIVE OF ADDITIONAL DETAILS AND CLARIFICATIONS WHICH DCM ABLE TO PROVIDE. DCM OFFERED COVER GROUND WITH GEN. KHALDI ON HIS RETURN IF THAT DESIRED.

2. RE NEXT STEPS, COL. BADIE STATED THAT GEN. KHALDI DUE BACK IN ABU DHABI EVENING OF AUGUST 24. HE MIGHT SPEND FEW DAYS IN UK TO VISIT AIRSHOW BEGINNING SEPT. 3 BUT THIS NOT YET DETERMINED. OTHERWISE HE EXPECTED REMAIN IN ABU DHABI. IN SHORT IF COLT REP CAN ARRIVE SOMETIME BETWEEN AUG. 28 AND 31 THIS SHOULD BE SATISFACTORY. IF IT TO BE LATER, EMBASSY SHOULD BE NOTIFIED SO WE CAN CHECK DATE IN ADVANCE WITH GEN. KHALDI TO INSURE HIS AVAILABILITY.

3. IN RESPONSE TO DCM'S SUGGESTION THAT LESSER NUMBER
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OF DEMONSTRATION WEAPONS SHOULD SUFFICE, COL. BADIE

WAS ENTIRELY RECEPTIVE. HE SAID THAT "TWO OR THREE"
SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT. WE SUGGEST WE COMPROMISE ON TWO
REPEAT TWO.

4. COL. BADIE STATED THAT UAEDF WOULD HANDLE CUSTOMS
CLEARANCE IF EMBASSY WAS ABLE PROVIDE DETAILS AS TO
HOW RIFLES WOULD BE COMING.

5. FINALLY RE TRAINING, WE THINK THIS BETTER EXPLORED
WITH GEN. KHALDI ON HIS RETURN. COL. BADIE INDICATED
AS WE FORECAST REF B THAT THIS NOT SO IMPORTANT--
I.E. IT MAY NOT BE REQUIRED.

6. PLEASE ADVISE RE COLT REPS DATE OF ARRIVAL AS
WELL AS DETAILS OF SHIPMENT OF DEMONSTRATION WEAPONS.
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